

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 444

To establish a demonstration project to train unemployed workers for employment as health care professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. FEINGOLD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a demonstration project to train unemployed workers for employment as health care professionals, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Community-Based
5 Health Care Retraining Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION**
7 **PROJECT.**

8 Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998
9 (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

1 “(e) HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

2 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

3 “(A) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term
4 ‘covered community’ means a community or re-
5 gion that—

6 “(i) has experienced a significant per-
7 centage decline in positions in the manu-
8 facturing or service sectors; and

9 “(ii)(I) is eligible for designation
10 under section 332 of the Public Health
11 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) as a health
12 professional shortage area;

13 “(II) is eligible to be served by a
14 health center under section 330 or a grant-
15 ee under section 330(h) (relating to home-
16 less individuals) of the Public Health Serv-
17 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 254b(h));

18 “(III) has a shortage of personal
19 health services, as determined under cri-
20 teria issued by the Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services under section 1861(aa)(2)
22 of the Social Security Act (relating to rural
23 health clinics) (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2));
24 or

1 “(IV) is designated by a Governor (in
 2 consultation with the medical community)
 3 as a shortage area or medically under-
 4 served community.

5 “(B) COVERED WORKER.—The term ‘cov-
 6 ered worker’ means an individual who—

7 “(i)(I) has been terminated or laid
 8 off, or who has received a notice of termi-
 9 nation or layoff, from employment in a
 10 manufacturing or service sector;

11 “(II)(aa) is eligible for or has ex-
 12 hausted entitlement to unemployment com-
 13 pensation; or

14 “(bb) has been employed for a dura-
 15 tion sufficient to demonstrate, to the ap-
 16 propriate entity at a one-stop center re-
 17 ferred to in section 134(c), attachment to
 18 the workforce, but is not eligible for unem-
 19 ployment compensation due to insufficient
 20 earnings or having performed services for
 21 an employer that were not covered under a
 22 State unemployment compensation law;
 23 and

24 “(III) is unlikely to return to a pre-
 25 vious industry or occupation; or

1 “(ii)(I) has been terminated or laid
 2 off, or has received a notice of termination
 3 or layoff, from employment in a manufac-
 4 turing or service sector as a result of any
 5 permanent closure of, or any substantial
 6 layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise; or

7 “(II) is employed in a manufacturing
 8 or service sector at a facility at which the
 9 employer has made a general announce-
 10 ment that such facility will close within
 11 180 days.

12 “(C) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.—The
 13 term ‘health care professional’—

14 “(i) means an individual who is in-
 15 volved with—

16 “(I) the delivery of health care
 17 services, or related services, pertaining
 18 to—

19 “(aa) the identification,
 20 evaluation, and prevention of dis-
 21 eases, disorders, or injuries; or

22 “(bb) home-based or com-
 23 munity-based long-term care;

24 “(II) the delivery of dietary and
 25 nutrition services; or

1 “(III) rehabilitation and health
2 systems management; and

3 “(ii) includes nurses, home health
4 aides, nursing assistants, physician assist-
5 ants, dental hygienists, diagnostic medical
6 sonographers, dietitians, medical tech-
7 nologists, occupational therapists, physical
8 therapists, radiographers, respiratory
9 therapists, emergency medical service tech-
10 nicians, speech-language pathologists, and
11 specific occupational needs of the commu-
12 nity served by the eligible entities as de-
13 fined in section (e)(4) of this Act..

14 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—In ac-
15 cordance with subsection (b), the Secretary shall es-
16 tablish and carry out a health professions training
17 demonstration project.

18 “(3) GRANTS.—In carrying out the project, the
19 Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of
20 Health and Human Services, shall make grants to
21 eligible entities to enable the entities to carry out
22 programs in covered communities to train covered
23 workers for employment as health care professionals.
24 The Secretary shall make each grant in an amount

1 of not less than \$100,000 and not more than
2 \$500,000.

3 “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding
4 subsection (b)(2)(B), to be eligible to receive a grant
5 under this subsection to carry out a program in a
6 covered community, an entity shall be a partnership
7 that is—

8 “(A) under the direction of a local work-
9 force investment board established under sec-
10 tion 117 that is serving the covered community;
11 and

12 “(B) composed of members serving the
13 covered community, such as—

14 “(i) a 4-year institution of higher edu-
15 cation;

16 “(ii) an accredited community college;

17 “(iii) an accredited vocational or tech-
18 nical school;

19 “(iv) a health clinic or hospital;

20 “(v) a home-based or community-
21 based long-term care facility or program;

22 or

23 “(vi) a health care facility adminis-
24 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

1 “(5) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
2 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit
3 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
4 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
5 retary may require, including, at a minimum—

6 “(A) a proposal to use the grant funds to
7 establish or expand a training program in order
8 to train covered workers for employment as
9 health care professionals or paraprofessionals;

10 “(B) information demonstrating the need
11 for the training and support services to be pro-
12 vided through the program;

13 “(C) information describing the manner in
14 which the entity will expend the grant funds,
15 and the activities to be carried out with the
16 funds;

17 “(D) information demonstrating that the
18 entity meets the requirements of paragraph (4);
19 and

20 “(E) with respect to training programs
21 carried out by the applicant, information—

22 “(i) on the graduation rates of the
23 programs involved;

24 “(ii) on the retention measures car-
25 ried out by the applicant;

1 “(iii) on the length of time necessary
2 to complete the training programs of the
3 applicant; and

4 “(iv) on the number of qualified train-
5 ees that are refused admittance into the
6 training programs because of lack of ca-
7 pacity.

8 “(6) SELECTION.—In making grants under
9 paragraph (3), the Secretary, after consultation with
10 the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
11 shall—

12 “(A) consider the date submitted by the
13 applicant under paragraph (5)(E); and

14 “(B) select—

15 “(i) eligible entities submitting appli-
16 cations that meet such criteria as the Sec-
17 retary of Labor determines to be appro-
18 priate; and

19 “(ii) among such entities, the eligible
20 entities serving the covered communities
21 with the greatest need for the grants and
22 the greatest potential to benefit from the
23 grants.

24 “(7) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that receives a grant under this subsection shall use the funds made available through the grant for training and support services that meet the needs described in the application submitted under paragraph (5), which may include—

“(i) increasing capacity, subject to subparagraph (B)(i), at an educational institution or training center to train individuals for employment as health professionals, such as by—

“(I) expanding a facility, subject to subparagraph (B)(ii);

“(II) expanding course offerings;

“(III) hiring faculty;

“(IV) providing a student loan repayment program for the faculty;

“(V) establishing or expanding clinical education opportunities;

“(VI) purchasing equipment, such as computers, books, clinical supplies, or a patient simulator; or

“(VII) conducting recruitment;

or

1 “(ii) providing support services for
 2 covered workers participating in the train-
 3 ing, such as—

4 “(I) providing tuition assistance;

5 “(II) establishing or expanding
 6 distance education programs;

7 “(III) providing transportation
 8 assistance; or

9 “(IV) providing child care.

10 “(B) LIMITATION.—To be eligible to use
 11 the funds to expand a facility, the eligible entity
 12 shall demonstrate to the Secretary in an appli-
 13 cation submitted under paragraph (5) that the
 14 entity can increase the capacity described in
 15 subparagraph (E)(iv) of such facility only by
 16 expanding the facility.

17 “(8) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated
 18 to, and available at the discretion of, the Secretary
 19 or the Secretary of Health and Human Services for
 20 programmatic and administrative expenditures, a
 21 total of \$25,000,000 shall be used to establish and
 22 carry out the demonstration project described in
 23 paragraph (2) in accordance with this subsection.”.

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